

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEU

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SUBJECT: EXCHANGES BETWEEN YMCA AND SOVIET COMMITTEE ON YOUTH
ORGANIZATIONS (CYO)

REF: (A) STATE 054384, (B) 75MOSCOW 14949

1. DARWIN HAINES, YMCA INTERNATIONAL DIVISION PROGRAM
OFFICER, ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE OTHER YMCA OFFICIALS, CALLED
ON CAO MARCH ELEVEN FOR BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION OF THEIR
EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CYO. THEY WILL VISIT
LENINGRAD (MARCH TWELVE - FIFTEEN) AND KIEV BEFORE
RETURNING TO MOSCOW FOR FURTHER MEETINGS MARCH NINETEEN.

2. RECENTLY INAUGURATED PROGRAM OF CAMP COUNSELOR EXCHANGE
AND WORKER SUPERVISOR EXCHANGE WILL CONTINUE AS PLANNED,
EXCEPT THAT CYO HAS ASKED THAT SUMMER 1976 CAMP
COUNSELOR EXCHANGE BE REDUCED IN NUMBERS OF AMERICAN
PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR DAYS IN USSR. REASON GIVEN WAS
"HIGH-LEVEL DIRECTIVE" TO REBUDGET FOR BIG EUROPEAN
YOUTH CONFERENCE AS POST-CSCE FOLLOW-UP. YMCA OFFICIALS
WILL HELD SOVIETS TO EARLIER COMMITMENTS, WHICH WERE IN
WRITING.

3. SOVIETS WILL ACCEPT NEW PROGRAM OF SUMMER YOUTH

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CAMPERS (AGES SIXTEEN - EIGHTEEN) COMING TO USSR. HOWEVER

YMCA OFFICIALS WERE TOLD MARCH ELEVEN THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT SEND RECIPROCAL GROUP TO US. REASON GIVEN BY CYO WAS "RIVERDALE AND FIFTH AVENUE SHOOTING AND VIOLENT INCIDENTS WHICH CAUSED PARENTS TO REFUSE TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO US." COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE SOVIETS EVER INTENDED TO SEND AGE 16-18 YOUTH TO US FOR SUMMER AND MORE ACCURATE EXPLANATION OF CYO STATEMENT PROBABLY IS CENTRALLY-DIRECTED EXPRESSION OF VIEWS ON NEW YORK INCIDENTS.

4. ALSO UNDER CURRENT NEGOTIATION ARE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXCHANGE AND STATEMANSHIP PROGRAM TO FAMILIARIZE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS. LATTER IS BEING ARRANGED THROUGH INSTITUTE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND ENVISIONS JUNE 2 - JULY 7 VISIT OF ABOUT FIFTY AMERICANS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT OF YMCA.

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